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AUG 28 2001
PATENT & TRADEMARK
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ABSTRACT

A vaccine for treating and/or preventing infectious diseases where the infectious agent has at least one intracellular phase in the host during its multiplication cycle, is disclosed. The vaccine comprises at least one cryptic epitope of a cellular element that is carried along by an intracellular infectious agent as it leaves the cell, and revealed by said infectious agent. A composition for treating and/or preventing HIV infections, antibodies to a peptide of interest, and a diagnostic method, are also disclosed.